

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PRS-01 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 AGR-05

HEW-02 CU-02 EA-06 /093 W

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R 211305Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHD 3055

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 1052

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

PARIS FOR MELONE

FROM EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MOZAMBIQUE HIGH COMMISSIONER

1. PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO ENTERTAINED CONGEN WALKER AND MYSELF AT DINNER NOV. 19 WITH PRIME MINISTER CHIASSANO, MAYOR OF LOURENCO MARQUES (FRELIMO), AND SOME DOZEN MEMBERS OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT CABINET AND MIXED MILITARY COMMISSION. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY ADMIRAL CRESPO. (SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON TALKS WITH CHIASSANO NOV 20).

2. ECONOMIC: MAJOR PROBLEM FACING FRELIMO IS FINANCIAL. THEY NEED FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND RIGHT NOW. I ASKED WHAT AID PORTUGAL COULD PROVIDE. HE SAID EDUCATION AND TECHNICIANS. THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WAS BEING PHASED OUT BUT COULD STAY IF FRELIMO ASKED. MILITARY TRAINING MIGHT BE PROVIDED AS WELL. I ASKED WHETHER ANY MAJOR POWERS HAD YET PROMISED SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE, MENTIONING USSR AND CHINA IN AN ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF HALF A DOZEN. HE SAID "ONLY THE NETHERLANDS", WHO WOULD GIVE ASSISTANCE THROUGH PORTUGAL. I ASKED WHETHER FRELIMO WOULD ACCEPT SUCH AID CHANNELLED BY WAY OF LISBON. HE SAID HE THOUGHT SO. HE FELT ARAB MONEY WOULD BE USEFUL BUT FRELIMO HADN'T GOT AROUND TO ASKING THE ARABS YET. I ASKED FINANCIAL AID WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE EASY FOR US. WERE CONTACTS BEING MADE WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS? HE SAID YES, FRELIMO WAS NOW TALKING WITH THE WORLD BANK IN LISBON.

3. PUBLIC ORDER: HE DEEPLY REGRETTED THE SEPTEMBER 7 AND OCTOBER 21 OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE BUT THOUGHT THE SITUATION MUCH BETTER NOW. HE HOPED THE EXODUS OF WHITES WOULD SLACKEN.

4. RHODESIA: IF SMITH DID NOT NEGOTIATE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION WITH THE BLACKS OF RHODESIA, FRELIMO MIGHT APPLY ECONOMIC PRESSURES. WHILE FRELIMO WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO DO THIS, GIVEN THE ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS ON MOZAMBIQUE'S REVENUES, THEY MIGHT DECIDE THAT PRINCIPLE (READ AFRICAN UNITY) OUTWEIGHED ECONOMIC FACTORS.

5. SOUTH AFRICA: FRELIMO HAD WORKED OUT A MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE SAG WHEREBY THEY WOULD NOT SPONSOR VIOLENCE WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA AND SAG WOULD SIMILARLY KEEP HANDS OFF MOZAMBIQUE.

6. ANGOLA: THE MPLA WAS MUCH THE STRONGEST GROUP IN POPULARITY
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BUT THE FNLA, SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED BY MOBUTU, WAS SOURING THE SITUATION. THEY HAD TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BECAUSE MOBUTU HAD ARMED THEM SO WELL. MOBUTU'S CLAIM OF ONE MILLION ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE WAS NONSENSE. MANY FNLA SOLDIERS, ALTHOUGH BAKONGO, SPOKE FRENCH NOT PORTUGUESE, AND COULD HARDLY CLAIM TO BE ANGOLAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS. UNITA HAD STILL ANOTHER CHARACTER, LESS VIOLENT, MORE FRIENDLY WITH WHITE PORTUGUESE, AND POSSIBLY A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE FNLS AND MPLA.

WHITES SHOULD JOIN THE BLACK PARTIES. THIS WAS NO TIME FOR RACIALISM. THE JUNTA WAS TRYING TO DISCOURAGE THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FROM ARMING THEMSELVES. PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS WERE EVERYWHERE. THERE WAS NO NEED FOR OTHERS TO HAVE GUNS. NYERERE AND KAUNDA WERE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL BUT MOBUTU WAS A BAD ACTOR. WHEN HE READ A NEWSPAPER REPORT THREE DAYS AGO OF A STATEMENT BY VITOR ALVES IN LONDON REQUESTING AID FOR ANGOLA FROM THE WORLD POWERS, CRESPO TELEPHONED HIM TO ASK WHAT IT MEANT. ALVES, A CLOSE FRIEND (AS IS MELO ANTUNES), SAID HE WAS MISINTERPRETED BY THE PRESS. HE MERELY MEANT THAT OTHERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT WHAT PORTUGAL IS TRYING TO DO TO DECOLONIZE ANGOLA.

7. CAPE VERDE: HE FORESAW ONLY TWO OPTIONS IN AN EVENTUAL REFERENDUM. ONE WAS UNION WITH THE MAINLAND. THE PAIGC WOULD PUSH FOR THIS BUT MANY CAPE VERDIANS DID NOT VIEW THEMSELVES AS AFRICAN AND WOULD RESIST. THE OTHER WAS SELF-GOVERNMENT OR SOME KIND OF AUTONOMY BUT LINKED WITH PORTUGAL. HE RULED OUT INDEPENDENCE. "THE PLACE IS TOO POOR".

8. NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRY: CRESPO DID NOT BELIEVE FRELIMO WOULD "SOCIALIZE" THE MOZAMBIQUE ECONOMY. THE IMPORTANT FACTORIES AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES WERE TOO DEPENDENT ON PORTUGUESE TIES AND PORTUGUESE STAFF. FRELIMO WOULD NOT HAVE THE ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITIES OR TALENT TO PULL THIS OFF.

9. PORTUGAL: ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE MFA, CRESPO SAID HE SAW PORTUGAL AS A "MEMBER OF THE THIRD WORLD" WITH RELATIONSHIPS "IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS". I GAINED IMPRESSION THAT "OLD BUDDY" MFA NETWORK OF MELO ANTUNES, VITOR ALVES, VITOR CRESPO AND ROSA COUTINHO IS IN VERY CLOSE CONTACT ON DECOLONIZATION PROBLEMS BUT SINCE HE DID NOT
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MENTION FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES, IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW CLOSELY THEY COORDINATE. CLEARLY ON PORTUGUESE SIDE EVERYTHING IS STILL BEING RUN FROM LISBON.

WALKER

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